

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 191130Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1812

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1719

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, US

SUBJ: AFGHAN REACTION TO LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO TO PAKISTAN

1. DAOUD'S REFERENCES IN INDIA TO OUR LIFTING OUR ARMS EMBARGO TO PAKISTAN WERE STRIDENT AND UNWELCOME. WE NOTE THAT HE WAS LESS STRIDENT IN BANGLADESH, POSSIBLY BECAUSE HIS AUDIENCE MIGHT HAVE BEEN LESS RECEPTIVE THAN INDIAN AUDIENCES TO ANTI-AMERICAN JIBES. BETWEEN DACCA AND BAGHDAD HE STOPPED IN KANDAHAR (HIS FIRST VISIT TO A PROVINCIAL CAPITAL SINCE BECOMING PRESIDENT) AND HIS SPEECH TO THE THRONGS THAT GREETED HIM THERE MADE NO

REFERENCE TO OUR ARMS POLICY.

2. ALTHOUGH WE SHOULD EXPECT MORE DAOUD STATEMENTS IN BAGHDAD AND BACK HOME (HE RETURNS MARCH 20) ON THE SUBJECT OF LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE STATEMENTS IN INDIA REPRESENTED A CLIMAX IN PUBLIC AFGHAN VITRIOL CONCERNING OUR NEW ARMS POLICY. IN ANY CASE, I AM INCLINED NOT RPT NOT TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH HIM OR DEPFONMIN ABDULLAH UPON THEIR RETURN TO KABUL. WE HAVE GIVEN THEM THE RATIONALE FOR OUR POLICY, AND HAVE SAID HERE AND IN WASHINGTON ABOUT ALL THAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT THEIR INITIAL REACTION. TO A GREAT EXTENT, WE BELIEVE THE SHARPNESS OF THEIR REACTION WAS CAUSED BY BHUTTO'S CRACKDOWN ON THE NAP COMING AT THE SAME TIME THE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED.

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3. WE WILL OF COURSE CLOSELY MONITOR GOA ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES CONCERNING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT DAOUD DOES NOT WANT TO ALTER OUR FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP. TO DATE, HIS SHARP PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT US SEEM ONLY TO HAVE HAD THE EFFECT OF MAKING SOME OF OUR AFGHAN CONTACTS EVEN MORE NERVOUS THAN USUAL ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS. THIS TOO IS LIKELY TO PASS, ESPECIALLY IF AFTER HIS RETURN DAOUD CEASES HIS ATTACKS ON OUR ARMS POLICY AND THE U.S. HERE HAS HIGH VISIBILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT OF THE HIGH LEVEL SENATORIAL DELEGATION WHICH DAOUD PLANS TO RECEIVE.  
ELIOT

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